III A Mumbai Water Supply project proposed for loan from Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA)

Mid-Vaitarna project proposed for World Bank assistance.

III A Mumbai, Kalu, Gargai, Shai and Pinjal project are still at the planning stage.

After completion of Shai project, water demand of Mumbai for the year 2021 is expected to be fully met.

Implementation of Land Reforms

2062. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that non-implementation of land reforms is a major stumbling-block for development of the country, when many developing countries have completed this primary task; and

(b) if so, what concrete steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) The Government of India has since independence, been concerned about implementation of land reform programmes in the country. The National Plan document also invariably keeps stress on early implementation of the land reforms. The Central Government organised Conferences of Revenue Ministers, Chief Ministers to pursue early and strict implementation of land reform legislations. It may be noted that India started implementation of land reform legislations earlier than the most successful developing countries. Land reform has always been considered as a pre-condition for rural development. It is, however, stated that the land reform Programmes in India is still an unfinished agenda which can be accomplished only if, the States show greater zeal, necessary political will and administrative efficiency. The subject matter basically falls within the legislative and executive jurisdiction of the State Governments. The Central Government's role is advisory and coordinative only.

Implementation of Land Reforms has been taken up seriously in the country though achievements under the same has not been equally substantial in the States. Achievements made under the land reforms in the country as given below would show that substantial work has been done under it.

The intermediaries like Zamindari, Jagirdari and all other forms of intermediaries, who were perpetually exploiting the peasantry of the country have been abolished. Through the process of abolishing intermediaries about 150 lakh acres of land vested to the State, out of which 127.97 lakh acres have been so far distributed to the landless poor. Through Bhoodan Movement 45.94 lakh acres of land vested to the States, out of which 24.42 lakh acres have so far been distributed to the landless poor. Simultaneously, through application of ceiling laws on agricultural holdings, since inception of the programme till March, 1996 an area of 74.1 lakh acres of land have been vested to the State, of which 64.85 lakh acres have been taken possession of and 51.71 lakh acres of land have been distributed to 50.7 lakh eligible rural poor. Nearly, 50% beneficiaries belong to SC/ST communities. In addition, through a series of legislation in favour of the 113.12 lakh tenants, ownership rights, were conferred or their rights were protected over a total area of 153.56 lakh acres of land. Thus transfer of vital productive asset like agricultural lands from the landholders to the actual tillers of the land and confiring of ownership as well as protecting the other rights of the tenants/

sharecroppers have undoubtedly, brought about considerable change in the agrarian relations aimed to achieve an egalitarian social structure to eliminate exploitation of tillers, increase agricultural productivity and above all, to improve the economic condition of a very large number of the rural poor. Except for the abolition of Zamindari and other intermediaries, most of the land reform programmes are still in the running agenda of the Government of India, as well as of the State/UT Governments.

The progress of the various land reform programmes have been reviewed from time to time at various fora including Conferences of Revenue Secretaries/ Ministers and Chief Ministers of the States/UTs. Besides, the progress is also reviewed from time to time by the Consultative Committee and Parliamentary Committee attached to this Ministry. The recently concluded conference of the Revenue Ministers held on 27th December, 1995 reviewed various land reform programmes and made various important and far reaching recommendations, by fixing time frame for completion of some of the programmes etc. This conference also recommended to set up a sub-committee of the Revenue Ministers to look into the various aspects of land reform programmes and made recommendations. As a follow up action the Government of India has set up a sub-committee under the Chairmanship of Minister of State, Rural Areas and Employment. The recommendations of these Conferences are forwarded to the States/UTs for appropriate action and apprise the Central Government of the action taken in the matter. The various land reform programmes are being implemented with vigour. The Central Government is alive to the situation and taking appropriate action in the matter in consultation with the States.

Funds for Rural Development in Assam

2063. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation of funds to Assam under rural development programme in 1996-97;

(b) what is the block-wise allocation of funds in Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj districts of the State;

(c) whether the funds allocated in the above-mentioned districts have been utilised; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (d) The details of the central funds allocated, released and utilised (upto Sept., 96) by the State Govt. of Assam and its districts of Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj during 1996-97 under Rural Development Programmes viz (i) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), (iii) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), (iv) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), (v) Million Wells Scheme (MWS) and (vi) Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) are as follows:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Scheme	Assam	Cachar	Hairlakandi	Karimganj
I. IRDP				
(i) Central allocation	1371.75	83.00	38.00	45.00
(ii) Central release	685.88	41.50	19.00	22.50
(iii) Amount utilised	470.08			
	Not monitored at district/block level			